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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Mario SPATAFORA, et al.

Serial No.: 10/022,817

Group No.: 3652

Filed: December 18, 2001

Examiner: Janice L. Krizek

For: METHOD AND UNIT FOR TRANSFERRING BLANKS

Attorney Docket No.: U 013780-7

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

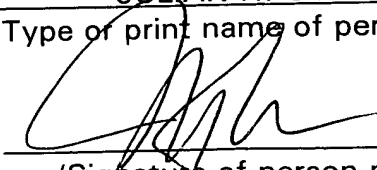
In response to the Official Action of September 23, 2004, it is requested that the Examiner consider the following remarks in support of patentability of the claims as amended in the amendment filed April 30, 2004. These remarks were inadvertently omitted in that amendment.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: October 14, 2004

JULIAN H. COHEN
(Type or print name of person mailing paper)


(Signature of person mailing paper)

According to Neri, the removal head 11 picks up successively the stacks 4 of blanks from the pallet 5 and feeds the stacks 4 to the hopper 3. Accordingly, each stack 4 is picked up alone from the pallet 5 and is inserted in the hopper 3.

As disclosed in column 5, lines 1-6, it is possible to store an appropriate amount of stacks on a fixed ledge 39 from which it is possible to draw during the step of changing the emptied pallets 5 so as not to interrupt the operation of the machine. In other words, the fixed ledge 39 is an emergency buffer reservoir, which can be used by the removal head 11 when the pallet 5 is not available (i.e. during the changing of an emptied pallet 5).

Claim 1 recites:

forming a group of blanks defined by at least two stacks superimposed and aligned in a container;

feeding the container along a second path to an unloading station at the store;

and transferring the group of blanks from the container to the store.

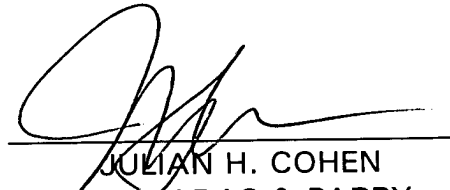
None of the above features recited in claim 1 is present in Neri. In this regard, the fixed ledge 39 in Neri is not a container and the stacks are not superimposed and aligned on the fixed ledge 39 the stacks are arranged side by side (on the fixed ledge 39). The fixed ledge 39 is not movable and thus cannot

be fed along a second path, and the stacks are transferred from the fixed ledge 39 to the store one by one and not all together (according to claim 1 the group of blanks is transferred all together from the container to the store.

The dependent claims specify particular features of the distinguishing characteristics recited above in claim 1 and thereby are deemed to be patentably distinct over the cited Neri patent which carries out a different operation as explained.

It is requested that the Examiner consider the amendatory action which has been taken in the amendment filed April 30, 2004 in addition to the remarks contained herein.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian H. Cohen', is written over a horizontal line.

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Practitioner's Docket

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AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL

WARNING: Failure to file a complete response in compliance with § 1.135(c) leads to a reduction in patent term adjustment - See § 1.704(c)(7).

1. Transmitted herewith is an amendment for this application.

STATUS

2. The application is qualified as
☐ a small entity.
☒ other than a small entity.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a) and 1.10*

(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is **mandatory**;
Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

MAILING

- ☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

37 C.F.R. 1.10*

- ☐ with sufficient postage as first class mail.

- ☐ as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"
Mailing Label No. _____ (mandatory)

TRANSMISSION

- ☐ transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office. to (703) 872-9306

Date: October 14, 2004

Signature

JULIAN H. COHEN
(type or print name of person certifying)

Only the date of filing (§ 1.6) will be the date used in a patent term adjustment calculation, although the date on any certificate of mailing or transmission under § 1.8 continues to be taken into account in determining timeliness. See § 1.703(f). Consider "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" (§ 1.10) or facsimile transmission (§ 1.6(d)) for the reply to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations.

EXTENSION OF TERM

NOTE: "Extension of Time in Patent Cases (Supplement Amendments) — If a timely and complete response has been filed after a Non-Final Office Action, an extension of time is not required to permit filing and/or entry of an additional amendment after expiration of the shortened statutory period.

If a timely response has been filed after a Final Office Action, an extension of time is required to permit filing and/or entry of a Notice of Appeal or filing and/or entry of an additional amendment after expiration of the shortened statutory period unless the timely-filed response placed the application in condition for allowance. Of course, if a Notice of Appeal has been filed within the shortened statutory period, the period has ceased to run." Notice of December 10, 1985 (1061 O.G. 34-35).

NOTE: See 37 C.F.R. §1.645 for extensions of time in interference proceedings, and 37 C.F.R. § 1.550(c) for extensions of time in reexamination proceedings.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(b)". . . an applicant shall be deemed to have failed to engage in reasonable efforts to conclude processing or examination of an application for the cumulative total of any periods of time in excess of three months that are taken to reply to any notice or action by the Office making any rejection, objection, argument, or other request, measuring such three-month period from the date the notice or action was mailed or given to the applicant, in which case the period of adjustment set forth in § 1.703 shall be reduced by the number of days, if any, beginning on the day after the date that is three months after the date of mailing or transmission of the Office communication notifying the applicant of the rejection, objection, argument, or other request and ending on the date the reply was filed. The period, or shortened statutory period, for reply that is set in the Office action or notice has no effect on the three-month period set forth in this paragraph."

3. The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136 apply.

(complete (a) or (b), as applicable)

(a) ☐ Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 (fees: 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(1)-(4)) for the total number of months checked below:

	Extension (months)	Fee for other than <u>small entity</u>	Fee for <u>small entity</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	one month	\$ 110.00	\$ 55.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	two months	\$ 430.00	\$ 215.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	three months	\$ 980.00	\$ 490.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	four months	\$ 1,530.00	\$ 765.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	five months	\$ 2,080.00	\$ 1,040.00

Fee: \$ _____

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor.

(check and complete the next item, if applicable)

☐ An extension for _____ months has already been secured. The fee paid therefor of \$ _____ is deducted from the total fee due for the total months of extension now requested.

Extension fee due with this request \$ _____

OR

(b) ☒ Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this is a conditional petition being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time.

FEE FOR CLAIMS

4. The fee for claims (37 C.F.R. 1.116(b)-(d)) has been calculated as shown below:

(Col. 1)		(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)	SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY		
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Addit. Fee	OR	Rate	Addit. Fee
Total	*	Minus	**	=	x \$ 9=	\$	x \$ 18=	\$
Indep.	*	Minus	***	=	x \$ 44=	\$	x \$ 88=	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claims				+ \$150=	\$		+ \$300=	\$
Total Addit. Fee					\$ ____	OR	Total Addit. Fee	\$ ____

- * If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write "O" in Col. 3,
 ** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".
 *** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".
 The "Highest No. Previously Paid For" (Total or Indep.) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

WARNING: "After final rejection or action (§ 1.113) amendments may be made canceling claims or complying with any requirement of form which has been made." 37 C.F.R. 1.116(a) (emphasis added).

(complete (c) or (d), as applicable)

- (c) ☒ No additional fee for claims is required.

OR

- (d) ☐ Total additional fee for claims required \$ _____

FEE PAYMENT

5. ☐ Attached is a check in the sum of \$ _____
☐ Charge Account No. 12-0425 the sum of \$ _____
 A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

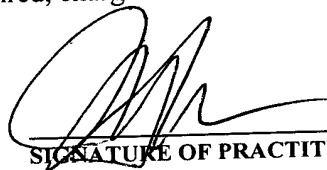
FEE DEFICIENCY

NOTE: If there is a fee deficiency and there is no authorization to charge an account, additional fees are necessary to cover the additional time consumed in making up the original deficiency. If the maximum, six-month period has expired before the deficiency is noted and corrected, the application is held abandoned. In those instances where authorization to charge is included, processing delays are encountered in returning the papers to the PTO Finance Branch in order to apply these charges prior to action on the cases. Authorization to charge the deposit account for any fee deficiency should be checked. See the Notice of April 7, 1986, (1065 O.G. 31-33).

6. ☒ If any additional extension and/or fee is required, charge Account No. 12-0425.

AND/OR

- ☒ If any additional fee for claims is required, charge Account No. 12-0425



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

Reg. No. 20,302

JULIAN H. COHEN

(type or print name of practitioner)

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00140

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE